

## MA SUSTAINABLE DESIGN ROUNDTABLE WORKING GROUP MEETING NOTES

Group: **Standards, Codes and Regulations**

Date: February 9, 2005

Location: Gensler Associates, 133 Federal St., Boston, MA

Attendees: Ken Fisher (Gensler, co chair), Kim Cullinane (MTC, co chair), Lawrence Masland (DOER), Joe Buckley (DHCD), Aisling Eglington (MEPA), Jennifer Somers(EHEinc), Vernon Woodworth (Sullivan Code Group), Marie Zack Nolan (EOEA, staff)

Handouts: 1. Draft survey on standards, codes legislation & regulations that impede high performance design in state buildings and/or state-funded buildings  
2. Article on "Sustainable Redevelopment for San Francisco"  
3. Responses to statement "coordinated codes promote sustainable design" from members of the AIA Codes & Standards Committee

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### 1) Discussion of different U.S. Building Codes

- National Building Code BOCA – Midwest and Northeast United States
- Southern Building Code – Southeast
- Uniform Building Code – West
- Agreement made to consolidate and publish one code – International Building Code
- No evidence exists that more liberal codes result in more risk.
- See comments in handout made by members of the AIA codes & standards committee on how coordinated codes promote sustainable design, especially how the allowance of the most liberal building size promotes sustainability by maximizing economies of materials, scale and land use.
- Code Coordinating Council manages the code review process. Public hearings for 7<sup>th</sup> edition of MA Building Code have not yet been scheduled.
- DCAM projects do not need to comply with some local codes

### 2) Key building code issues

- Size limitations
- Concrete requirements - more expensive than wood frame, may or may not be more durable, difficult to modernize, use in public housing
- Fire protection – Chapter 9 – very restrictive and difficult to change
- Reuse of Existing Buildings – height and area restrictions of existing buildings
- Energy code – Chapter 13

### 4) Discussion of draft survey instrument

- Examples of "state standards" - DCAM standards, MEPA thresholds (projects over 1 acre require EPA stormwater management/NPDES permit)

### 5) Discussion of survey techniques and distribution

- BSA could host the survey with an email link
- Firm could be hired to administer survey
- Critical to identify audience
- Confidentiality issues
- Gear survey to firms that do public work

Next Tasks:

- Send comments on survey to Ken Fisher by 2/16/05
- Research if any group has done a comparative analysis of codes and regulations like a government agency or US GBC
- Prepare draft 3-10-05 presentation

Next Meeting:

March 2, 12:00 - 1:30 pm at Gensler Associates

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